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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/767,225 | 01/28/2004 | Yi-Lung Kuo | 23724-07838 | 2599 |

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| EXAMINER |
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HAWK, NOAH CHANDLER

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3637

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/767,225 | KUO, YI-LUNG | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Noah C. Hawk | 3637 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 2 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The claims include the limitation "small form factor computer chassis" which is not defined anywhere in the specification and therefore will be given no patentable weight.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-4, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- a. Regarding Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9, the phrase "the computer chassis" renders the claim indefinite. The instant claims recite a "face plate apparatus" but include language regarding a computer chassis onto which the face plate may be

installed. It is unclear whether the applicant intends to claim the face plate apparatus alone or the combination of the face plate and computer chassis. For the purposes of examination, the Office interprets Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 to be directed only to the "face plate apparatus." Any language directed to the computer chassis will not be given any patentable weight.

b. Claim 4 recites the limitation "substantially opaque." The definition of opaque given by Webster's New Riverside Dictionary is "impervious to the passage of light." It is unclear whether the applicant intends for these elements to be transparent or impervious to the passage of light (See specification, paragraph 0016: "the cover plate may be composed of dark transparent or opaque material"). The applicant must clarify the characteristics of these elements.

c. Claim 3 recites the limitation "the open/close mechanism" in line 2 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For the purposes of examination, the claim shall be taken to mean that there is a mechanism with a set of engaged gears to slow relative motion between the cover plate and the drive door.

d. Claim 4 recites the limitation "the slotted panel" in line 1 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

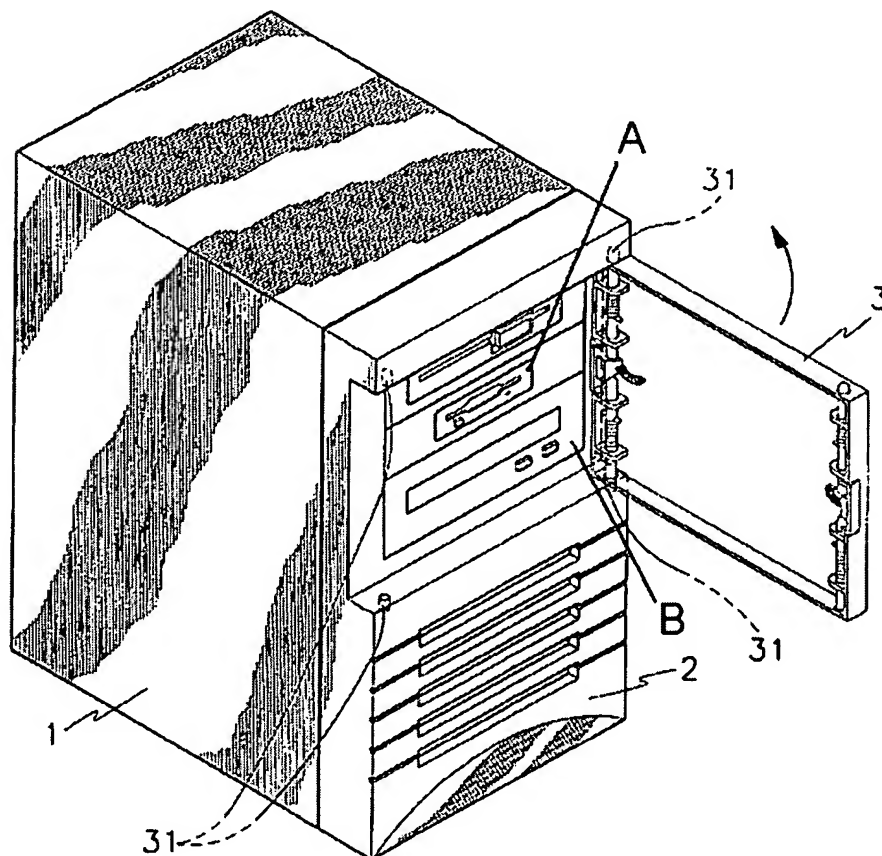
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee et al. in US Patent 5926916.

e. Regarding Claim 1, Lee et al. discloses a face plate apparatus for covering the drive and port interfaces of a computer, the apparatus comprising a cover plate (2) for concealing a plurality of interfaces for drives of different sizes of a computer while in a closed position, the cover plate having a window (see Lee et al., Column 2, line 57, “an open area of face 2”), a drive door (3) for covering the window in the cover plate through which a drive interface can be accessed while the cover plate is in a closed position and a mechanism (see Lee et al., Column 4, line 51-52, “said face being attached to a front portion of said case” Although Lee et al. does not describe the mechanism, it is clear that there is a mechanism present to secure the face to the case.) for securing the cover plate to a computer chassis.

f. Regarding Claim 2, Lee et al. discloses that the computer chassis comprises a “small form factor computer chassis” insofar as it is described by the applicant.

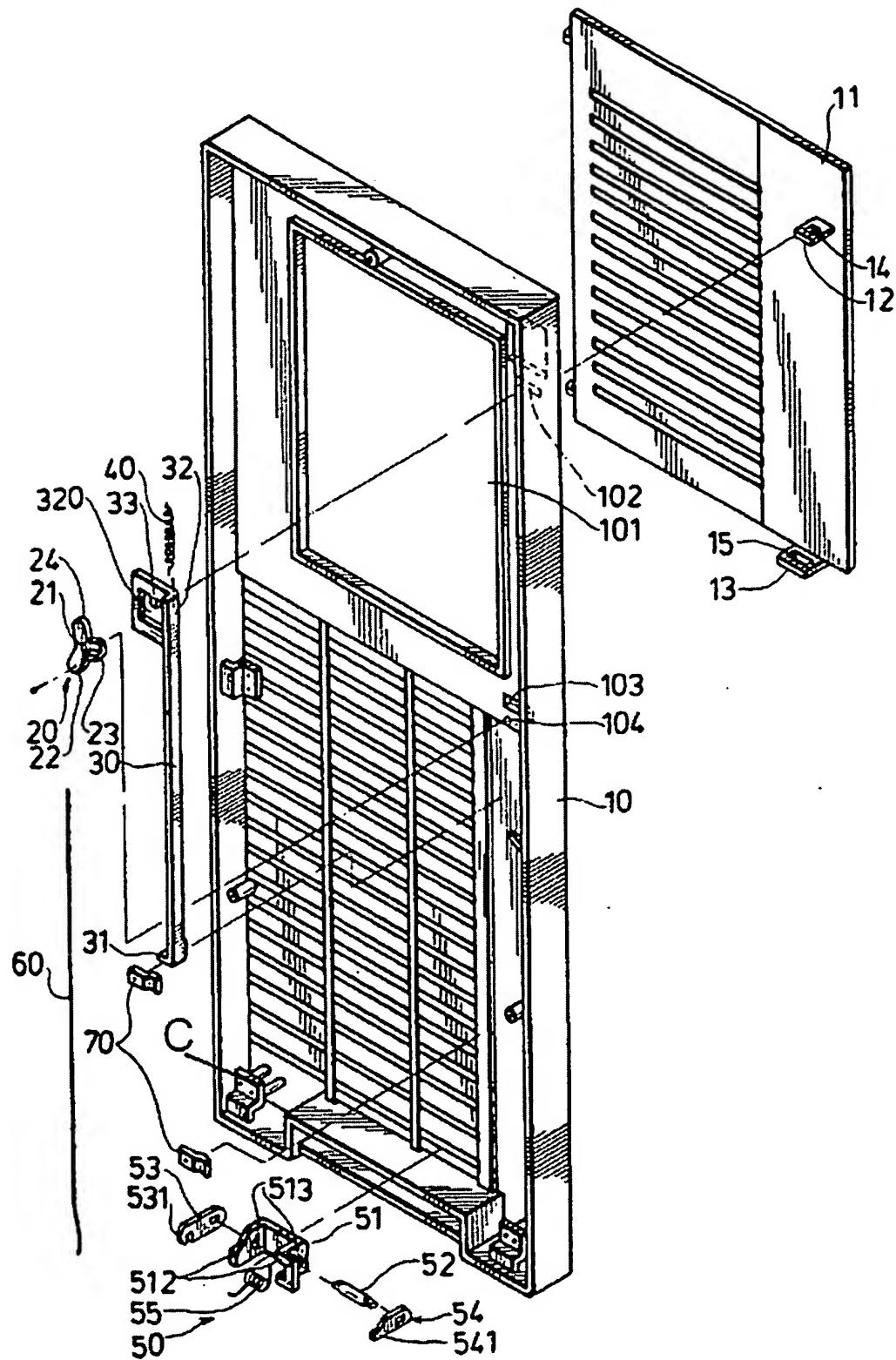
- g. Regarding Claim 4, Lee et al. discloses that the drive door (3) is substantially opaque (best seen in Lee et al., Figure 1. The fact that the drives aren't visible through the door indicates that the door is opaque as defined in Webster's New Riverside Dictionary: "impervious to the passage of light").
- h. Regarding Claim 5, Lee et al. discloses that the plurality of interfaces comprise an interface for a 3 ½-inch drive (A) and an interface for a 5 ¼-inch drive (B).



Lee et al., Figure 2

- i. Regarding Claim 6, Lee et al. discloses that the drive door, while in a closed position, is configured to conceal an interface for a 5 ¼-inch drive (B).
7. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lan et al. in US Patent 5116261.

j. Regarding Claim 1, Lan et al. discloses a face plate apparatus for covering the drive and port interfaces of a computer, the apparatus comprising a cover plate (10) for concealing a plurality of interfaces for drives of different sizes of a computer while in a closed position, the cover plate having a window (101), a drive door (11) for covering the window in the cover plate through which a drive interface can be accessed while the cover plate is in a closed position and a mechanism (C) for securing the cover plate to a computer chassis.



Lan et al., Figure 2

k. Regarding Claim 2, Lan et al. discloses that the computer chassis comprises a "small form factor computer chassis" insofar as it is described by the applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. as applied to Claim 1 above in view of Stapf in US Patent 5924757. As stated above, Lee et al. discloses all of the limitations of Claim 1 including a face plate apparatus but does not disclose a geared mechanism to slow the motion of the drive door. Stapf discloses a door (2) connected to a damper mechanism (8) via a set of engaged gears (a rack, 12 on the door is connected to a pinion, 10, on the damper). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Lee et al. by using a damping mechanism having a set of engaged gears as taught by Stapf in order to prevent the drive door from opening or closing too fast.

10. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lan et al. as applied to Claim 1 above in view of Stapf in US Patent 5924757. As stated above, Lan et al. discloses all of the limitations of Claim 1 including a face plate apparatus but

does not disclose a geared mechanism to slow the motion of the drive door. Stapf discloses a door (2) connected to a damper mechanism (8) via a set of engaged gears (a rack, 12 on the door is connected to a pinion, 10, on the damper). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Lan et al. by using a damping mechanism having a set of engaged gears as taught by Stapf in order to prevent the drive door from opening or closing too fast.

11. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. as applied to Claim 1 above in view of Della Fiora et al. in US Patent 6125031. As stated above, Lee et al. discloses all of the limitations of Claim 1 including a face plate apparatus but does not disclose a second cover plate. Della Fiora et al. discloses a second cover plate (36) for concealing a plurality of port interfaces (28) of a computer while in a closed position (Best seen in Della Fiora et al., Figure 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Lee et al. by adding a second cover to conceal a port interface of a computer as taught by Della Fiora et al. in order to protect the port interfaces of a computer.

12. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. as applied to Claim 1 above in view of Schmitt in US Patent 6272010. As stated above, Lee et al. discloses all of the limitations of Claim 1 including a face plate apparatus. Lee et al. further discloses that the cover plate is secured to a computer chassis (see Lee et al., Column 4, line 51-52, "said face being attached to a front portion of said case") but does not disclose that the cover plate is configured to rotate around an axis parallel to the front of the computer chassis. Schmitt teaches a face plate apparatus with a cover

plate (520) configured to rotate around an axis parallel to the front of a computer chassis (510). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Lee et al. by using a cover plate configured to rotate as taught by Schmitt in order to provide access to the entire front of the computer chassis.

13. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. as applied to Claim 1 above in view of Della Fiora et al. in US Patent 6125031. As stated above, Lee et al. discloses all of the limitations of Claim 6 including a face plate apparatus. Lee et al. further discloses that the face plate is for a "small form factor computer chassis" insofar as it is described by the applicant, but does not disclose a second cover plate. Della Fiora et al. discloses a second cover plate (36) for concealing a plurality of port interfaces (28) of a computer while in a closed position (Best seen in Della Fiora et al., Figure 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Lee et al. by adding a second cover to conceal a port interface of a computer as taught by Della Fiora et al. in order to protect the port interfaces of a computer.

14. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lan et al. as applied to Claim 1 above in view of Della Fiora et al. in US Patent 6125031. As stated above, Lan et al. discloses all of the limitations of Claim 1 including a face plate apparatus but does not disclose a second cover plate. Della Fiora et al. discloses a second cover plate (36) for concealing a plurality of port interfaces (28) of a computer while in a closed position (Best seen in Della Fiora et al., Figure 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of

Lee et al. by adding a second cover to conceal a port interface of a computer as taught by Della Fiora et al. in order to protect the port interfaces of a computer.

15. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lan et al. as applied to Claim 1 above in view of Schmitt in US Patent 6272010. As stated above, Lan et al. discloses all of the limitations of Claim 1 including a face plate apparatus. Lan et al. further discloses that the cover plate is secured to a computer chassis (see Lan et al., Column 2, line 22-24, "the computer panel is used to cover one side of a computer casing") but does not disclose that the cover plate is configured to rotate around an axis parallel to the front of the computer chassis. Schmitt teaches a face plate apparatus with a cover plate (520) configured to rotate around an axis parallel to the front of a computer chassis (510). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Lan et al. by using a cover plate configured to rotate as taught by Schmitt in order to provide access to the entire front of the computer chassis.

Conclusion

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gan et al., Chang, Terao, Yun, Della Fiora et al. '822, Crowley, Hrehor, Jr. et al., Park and Radloff et al. disclose face plate apparatuses for computers. Dong '771, Lai and Dong '435 disclose face plates for computer with port interface covers. Tobishima discloses a door with a set of engaged gears.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Noah C. Hawk whose telephone number is 571-272-1480. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 571-272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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